

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 18675 221757Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 OC-05

CCO-00 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /071 W

----- 127696

R 221615Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4869

INFO AMCONSUL NAPLES

SECDEF

CNO

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMFAIRMED

USCINCEUR

AMCONSUL PALERMO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 18675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IT

SUBJ: DISESTABLISHMENT OF NAF NAPLES

REF: (A) STATE 296333; (B) CINCUSNAVEUR 181556Z DEC 75

1. TEXT OF PRESS STATEMENT (REF. A) AS AMENDED BY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH WILKINSON DOD/ISA WAS SHOWN TO MFA NATO DIRECTOR SALLEO DECEMBER 19 PRIOR TO RECEIPT REF. B. (NOTAL). THOUGH ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS SALLEO HAS BEEN WILLING TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY IN SUCH MATTERS HE INDICATED HE WOULD HAVE TO REFER THE TEXT TO DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MINISTRY PLAJA. IN HIS OWN OPINION, THERE WAS NO NEED FOR A PRESS RELEASE, BUT AGREED THAT SOME CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE WAS REQUIRED IN THE EVENT OF MEDIA INTEREST. HE MENTIONED ONLY ONE ELEMENT IN THE VR-24 MOVE THAT HE CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE PRESS, IF ASKED: NO ITALIANS WOULD LOSE THEIR JOBS AS A RESULT. FOLLOWING IS TEXT LEFT WITH SALLEO:
BEGIN TEXT: IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRANSFER OF THE VR-24
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 18675 221757Z

SQUADRON FROM NAPLES TO SIGONELLA, SICILY, THE U.S. NAVY HAS

ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL DISESTABLISH THE NAVAL AIR FACILITY IN NAPLES, ITALY. THE FUNCTIONS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PHYSICAL ASSETS OF THE FACILITY WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE NAVY SUPPORT ACTIVITY, NAPLES. CERTAIN OTHER FUNCTIONS AND RELATED ASSETS ARE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE NAVAL AIR FACILITY AT SIGONELLA. THE ACTION WILL BE EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 1976.

THE DISESTABLISHMENT AND SUBSEQUENT CONSOLIDATION IS DESIGNED TO GAIN GREATER OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY.

THE NAVAL AIR FACILITY IS LOCATED AT NAPLES' CAPODICHINO AIRPORT. CAPODICHINO ALSO SERVES AS A COMMERCIAL AIRFIELD.

COINCIDENT WITH THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF NAF NAPLES, AN AIR DEPARTMENT OF NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO OPERATE THE U.S. TRANSIENT AVIATION FACILITIES AT CAPODICHINO. ADDITIONALLY, SOME TENANT ACTIVITIES WILL BE AFFECTED WITH SOME REMAINING AT CAPODICHINO WHILE OTHER ACTIVITIES WILL RELOCATE.

Q: WHAT WILL BE THE PERSONNEL IMPACT?

A: FOUR U.S. CIVILIANS WILL BE REASSIGNED TO NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY NAPLES. THREE OTHER U.S. CIVILIAN POSITIONS WILL BE ELIMINATED. EIGHTY DIRECT HIRE FOREIGN NATIONALS WILL BE REASSIGNED TO THE SAME ACTIVITY. OF THE PRESENT 394 U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL, 113 WILL BE RELOCATED TO NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY NAPLES, 218 WILL BE RELOCATED TO NAF SIGONELLA AND THE REMAINING 63 PERSONNEL WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER NAVY UNITS AROUND THE WORLD.

Q: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO REAL ESTATE NO LONGER REQUIRED?

A: BUILDINGS NOT IMMEDIATELY REQUIRED TO SUPPORT NSA OPERATIONS WILL BE PLACED IN A CARETAKER STATUS.

Q: WILL ANY ASSISTANCE BE OFFERED TO THE AFFECTED U.S. CIVILIANS?

A: YES. UPON DISESTABLISHMENT, THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR U.S. CITIZEN EMPLOYEES: (1) DISPLACED CAREER U.S. EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE FOR FURTHER OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT MAY REGISTER IN THE DOD PRIORITY PLACEMENT PROGRAM FOR PLACEMENT IN DOD VACANCIES IN THE EUROPEAN AREA FOR WHICH THEY ARE QUALIFIED AND AVAILABLE. THESE AND OTHER DISPLACED U.S. CAREER EMPLOYEES WITHOUT REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AT THEIR OVERSEAS GRADE LEVELS MAY ALSO REGISTER FOR PRIORITY PLACEMENT CONSIDERATION FOR DOD VACANCIES IN THE U.S. FOR WHICH THEY ARE QUALIFIED AND AVAILABLE; (2) THOSE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 18675 221757Z

CAREER U.S. RECRUITED EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE STATUTORY OR ADMINISTRATIVE REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS MAY EXERCISE THOSE RIGHTS UPON RETURN TO THE U.S.; AND (3) DEPENDENTS WOULD FOLLOW SPOUSE TO NEW ASSIGNMENT (OR RETURN STATESIDE IF NEXT TOUR UNACCOMPANIED).

Q: IS THIS ACTION BEING INFLUENCED BY THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN ITALY?

A: NO. IN FACT, THE MOVE HAS BEEN IN THE PLANNING STAGE FOR SOME TIME.

Q: WON'T THIS ACTION DECREASE THE SUPPORT OFFERED TO SIXTH FLEET AND NATO UNITS?

A: NO.

Q: WHAT FUNCTIONS WILL REMAIN AT CAPODICHINO?

A: THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS WILL BE RETAINED: AFSOUTH FLIGHT SECTION, ARMED FORCES COURIER SERVICE DETACHMENT, DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY, NAVAL AIR MEDITERRANEAN REPAIR ACTIVITY, NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION NAPLES DETACHMENT, FLEET MAIL CENTER, THE MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND (MAC) LIAISON DETACHMENT, THE MAC PASSENGER AND CARGO TERMINAL, AND THE NAVAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE DETACHMENT.

Q: WHAT FUNCTIONS WILL BE RELOCATED?

A: THE VR-24 SQUADRON AND RELATED SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.

Q: WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT ON THE DIRECT HIRE FOREIGN NATIONALS?

A: ALL 80 WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY NAPLES FOR REDISTRIBUTION AS REQUIRED IN THE NAPLES AREA.

Q: WHY IS THE VR-24 SQUADRON MOVING FROM NAF NAPLES TO SIGONELLA?

A: THE RELOCATION IS A PLANNED STEP IN THE MOVE TO IMPROVE THE LOGISTIC LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS BY SHIFTING THE AXIS FROM THE ROTA-NAPLES-ATHENS LINE TO THE ROTA-SIGONELLA-SOUDA BAY LINE. THE MOVE IS PART OF A MEDITERRANEAN FORCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN WHEREBY FACILITIES HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED AT SIGONELLA WITH NATO FUNDING TO PROVIDE FOR VR-24 NEEDS THERE.

Q: HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE VR-24 MOVE?

A: 48 OFFICERS, 165 ENLISTED PERSONNEL AND 96 DEPENDENTS.

Q: WILL THE VR-24 DETACHMENT AT ROTA BE AFFECTED?

A: NO. END TEXT.

2. COMMENT: WITH THE BUCK PASSED TO PLAJA, THERE IS LITTLE HOPE THAT WE WILL HAVE A GOI POSITION ON THE PRESS QUESTION BEFORE THE NEW YEAR, AND LIKELY NOT IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. IF WE AGREE TO FOREGO THE PRESS RELEASE PORTION OF THIS ACTION, HOWEVER, THERE SEEMS NO REASON WHY THE NAVY CANNOT PROCEED WITH THE STEPS PROPOSED IN PARA 1-B AND C OF REF. A. THE MFA IS AWARE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ROME 18675 221757Z

THAT THERE HAS IN FACT BEEN SOME ACTION ALREADY TAKEN IN MOVING SOME EQUIPMENT AND SOME PERSONNEL TO SIGONELLA IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRANSFER OF VR-24. COMGEN NAPLES IS OF THE VIEW, WITH WHICH WE AGREE, THAT LANGUAGE OF "DISESTABLISHMENT" THOUGH PERHAPS REQUIRED IN THE U.S. CONTEXT WOULD RAISE SERIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES HERE. A PRESS RELEASE IN THOSE TERMS WOULD IN OUR OPINION CREATE IMPRESSION HERE THAT WE ARE RELINQUISHING OUR POSITION AT CAPO DI CHINO, RAISING AMONG ITALIAN PUBLIC QUESTION OF OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO ITALY AND AMONG MEMBERS GOI QUESTION OF JUSTIFICATION OUR CONTINUING PRESENCE AT THE AIRFIELD. WE WOULD HOPE THAT DOMESTIC U.S. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS CAN BE HANDLED IN A LOW-KEY ROUTINE MANNER, NO PRESS RELEASE BE MADE, AND ANTICIPATE THAT HE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO MR. PLAJA WILL POSE NO SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES AND CAN BE USED IF NEEDED. VOLPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, MILITARY PERSONNEL, INSTRUCTIONS, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, AIR FORCE, REORGANIZATIONS, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME18675
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750444-0537
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751219/aaaaaqcf.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 296333
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISESTABLISHMENT OF NAF NAPLES
TAGS: MARR, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006